

GREAT BIBLE DOCTRINES - LESSON 10 THE DOCTRINE OF GRACE

Introduction: Grace is the undeserved favor of God. In salvation, grace is the one word that sums up God's part, and faith is the one word which sums up man's part in response. The Greek word *charis*, usually translated "grace," is occasionally translated "thanksgiving" or "gratitude," referring to man's reaction to the benefits of God's grace; thus our expression "to say grace" (offer thanks for God's gift of food).

1. God's love (agape) is the origin of grace - Romans 5:5-8; John 3:16; 1 John 4:8; 3:1.

2. We receive grace because of Christ's atonement - John 1:17; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:6, 7.

3. God's grace is offered to all people in the gospel (good news) - Titus 2:11; Acts 20:24.

4. Grace includes many things God does for us - 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4. It is not confined to forgiveness. "Enablement" is a very important part of grace. Some of the expressions of God's grace mentioned in scripture are these:
 - A. The death of Christ for the sins of all people - Hebrews 2:9; John 3:16
 - B. The choosing or election of God's people - Romans 11:5
 - C. The teaching of righteousness to sinners - Titus 2:11, 12
 - D. The calling of people to serve God and belong to Him - Galatians 1:15; Romans 8:30
 - E. Justification (being counted as righteous) - Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7
 - F. Faith - Acts 18:27
 - G. Different gifts for service to God in the body of Christ - Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
 - H. Offices or ministries in church leadership - Ephesians 4:7, 8, 11; Romans 1:5
 - I. Help in time of need or struggle - Hebrews 4:16
 - J. Enablement for doing God's work - 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Timothy 2:1

5. Grace cannot be earned and is not received because of the perfection of what we do - Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Romans 11:6; Compare Romans 4:1-5. In his book, *what's So Amazing about Grace*, Philip Yancey says, "There is nothing you can do to make God love you more. There is nothing you can do to make God love you less."

6. Grace is received by faith - Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:2. (True faith seeks to be obedient - James 2:14-26; Galatians 5:6).

7. Grace is the only principle by which we undeserving sinners can be received by God and be blessed by Him - Romans 6:14; 5:2.

8. Grace motivates us to obedience and righteousness in a way that law cannot - Romans 7:18-25; 8:1-4; John 12:32; 1 John 4:19; 2 Corinthians 5:14.
 - A. Under grace we serve the Lord, not just the law - John 14:15; 15:13-15.
 - B. We are changed inwardly so that we gladly and voluntarily do God's will - Jeremiah 31:31-34; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18.
 - C. The "Spirit of Grace" is the agent of God's grace on earth today - Hebrews 10:29; John 14:16, 17.
 - D. The Spirit enables us to overcome sin and creates in us a character like that of Jesus - Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:22, 23.

9. Other truths about grace:
 - A. God's grace is inexhaustible - 2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 2:7; Romans 5:15.
 - B. Christ alone has perfectly exhibited God's grace in His character, words and work - John 1:14, 17; Luke 4:22.
 - C. If we attempt to earn our salvation by the perfection of our legal correctness, we fall away from grace - Galatians 5:4.
 - D. It is possible to "receive the grace of God in vain" if we do not let grace have its desired work in us - 2 Corinthians 6:1; Hebrews 6:4-8.
 - E. God gives grace only to those who humble themselves and accept their need - James 4:6-10.

10. Our response to the grace of God:
 - A. We must not abuse or misuse grace as a license for sin - Jude 4; Romans 6:1, 15.
 - B. His grace will beget grace in us - 2 Peter 3:18.
 - 1) We will sing with joy and praise - Colossians 3:16.
 - 2) We will speak gracious things that will build up and not tear down - Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29; compare Isaiah 50:4.
 - 3) We will always give thanks to God in everything - Ephesians 5:20; Hebrews 12:28.
 - 4) We will rejoice whenever we observe the grace of God or its results - Acts 11:23.
 - 5) We will love one another as Christ loved us - John 13:34.
 - 6) We will forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven us - Ephesians 4:32 - and

will accept one another in unity even if we disagree on disputable matters which are not fundamental to the Christian faith - Romans 14:1-15:7.

- 7) We will live transformed lives as an offering to God because of His mercy - Romans 12:1, 2.

Conclusion: In the grace of God is all our hope. How thankful we must be that the God of the universe is a gracious God. The most important thing in the world for our lives is that "no one misses the grace of God" - Hebrews 12:15.

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